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№ 153 60p

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

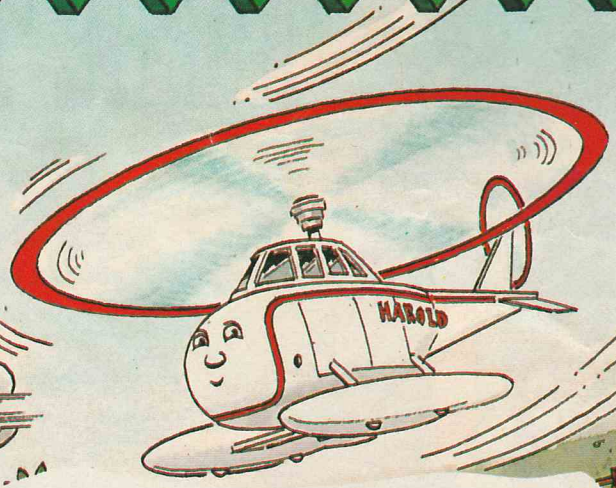
Based on the Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.

Little Percy is a very Special Engine!

34
9 770954 939046

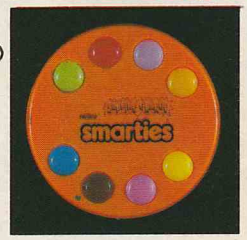
NOTICEBOARD

Peep! Peep! Percy is the small Saddle Tank Engine who works very hard on the Fat Controller's railway. But Percy often wishes he could be given more special tasks to do! In the story that begins on page 3, Percy is given the most special task of all. In our second story, Terence the Tractor carries some passengers! Peep! Peep!



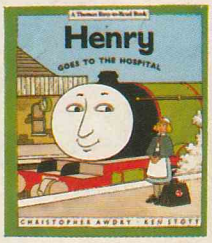
INSIDE THIS ISSUE!

Turn to page **7** for full details of our special **Smarties Zapper Token** offer. The offer is open to all our readers and especially those who have saved a **Zapper Token** from our last issue! We also have **20** of these fantastic **Zappers** (see pic) to give away to our Thomas readers.



OUR NEXT ISSUE!

Don't miss our next issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends**. We will be running two fantastic competitions. You could win some charming picture books, courtesy of **Reed Children's Books** (see opposite). Additionally, **ERTL(UK)Ltd** have produced an impressive range of **Miniature Thomas** toys. We will be offering them as prizes, too!



HOW TO OBTAIN YOUR FAT CONTROLLER'S CARD!

If you would like to receive your very own, splendid **Fat Controller's Card**, just send one **red**, **yellow** and **blue** token together with your details listed below (details need only be listed on any one of the 3 coloured tokens when applying for this offer) plus a stamped addressed envelope to: The Fat Controller's Card Offer, Marvel Comics Ltd., 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.

Name .....

Address .....

.....

Postcode ..... Age ...

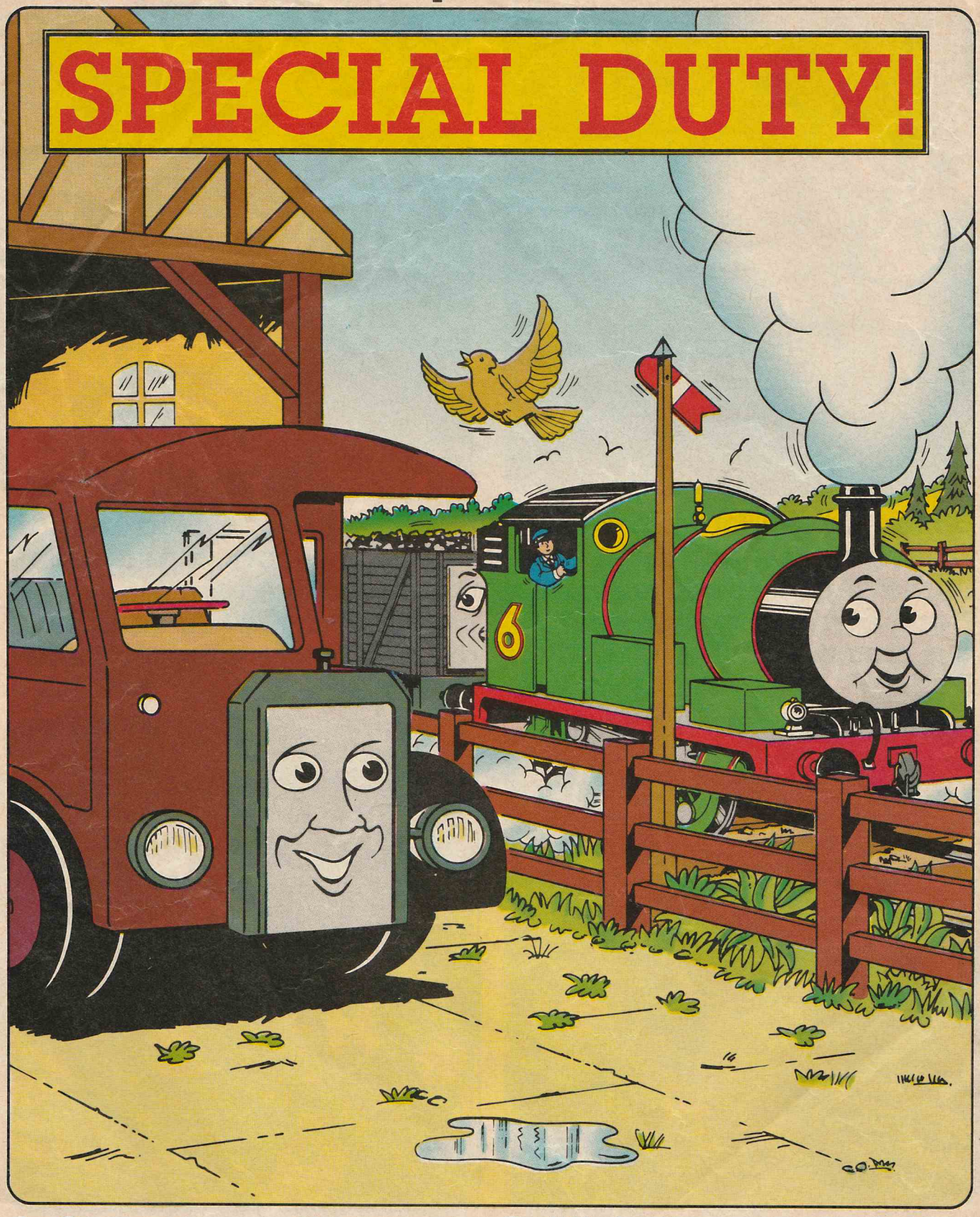
THOMAS TOKEN

ABC
MEMBER OF THE AUDIT BUREAU OF CIRCULATIONS

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE AND FRIENDS is published fortnightly by **MARVEL COMICS LTD.** Jim Galton, Chairman. Vincent Conran, Managing Director. Paul Neary, Editorial Director. Office of publication: 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2 3DX. All **THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS** material copyright © William Heinemann Limited. All television and merchandising rights licensed by William Heinemann Limited to Britt Allcroft (Thomas) Ltd exclusively worldwide. All rights reserved. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons and/or institutions in this publication with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Printed in the UK. Distributed by IPC Marketforce, Independent Publishers Group, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS. Tel. no. 071 261 6061 ISSN 0954-9390.

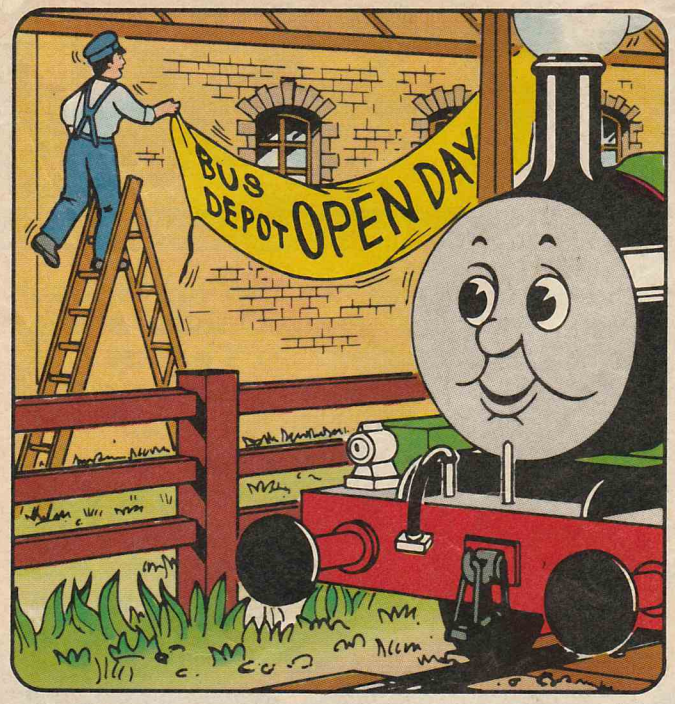
A Listen and Look Story!

SPECIAL DUTY!

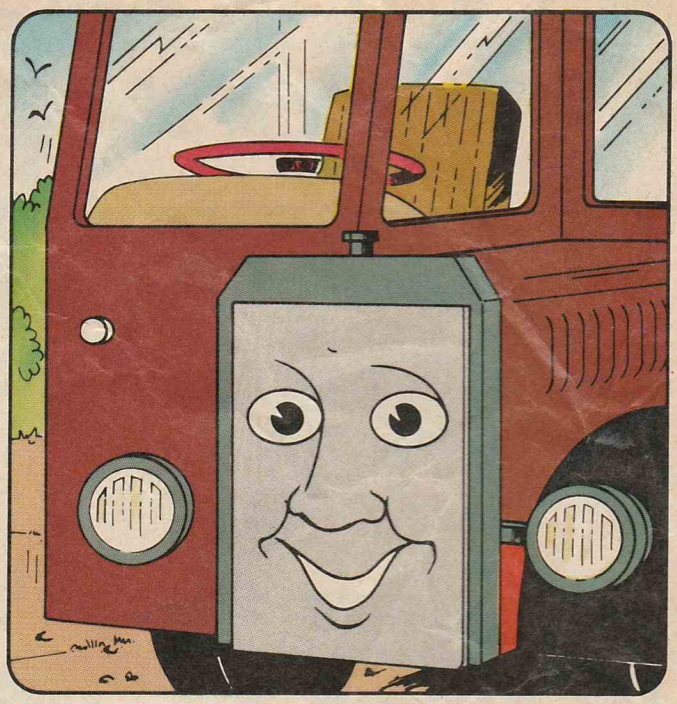


1. One morning, Percy was busy pulling some trucks. As he neared the bus depot beside the track, a signal warned him to stop until the line was clear.

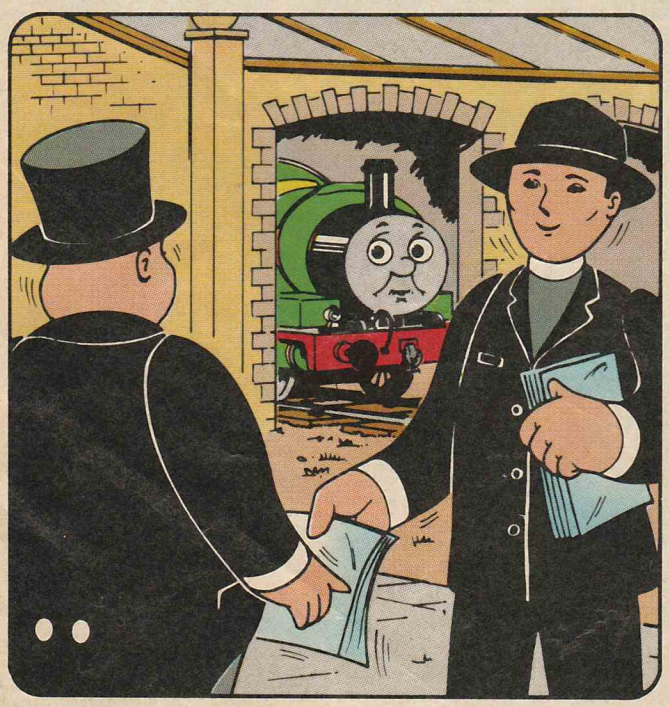
2. While Percy waited, he saw Bertie the Bus parked in the depot. "Wake up, Bertie! Shouldn't you be picking up passengers?" Percy called cheekily.



3. "Not today!" laughed Bertie. "They are coming to see me in the depot!" Then Percy saw flags being hung up and a big banner which said: "OPEN DAY!"

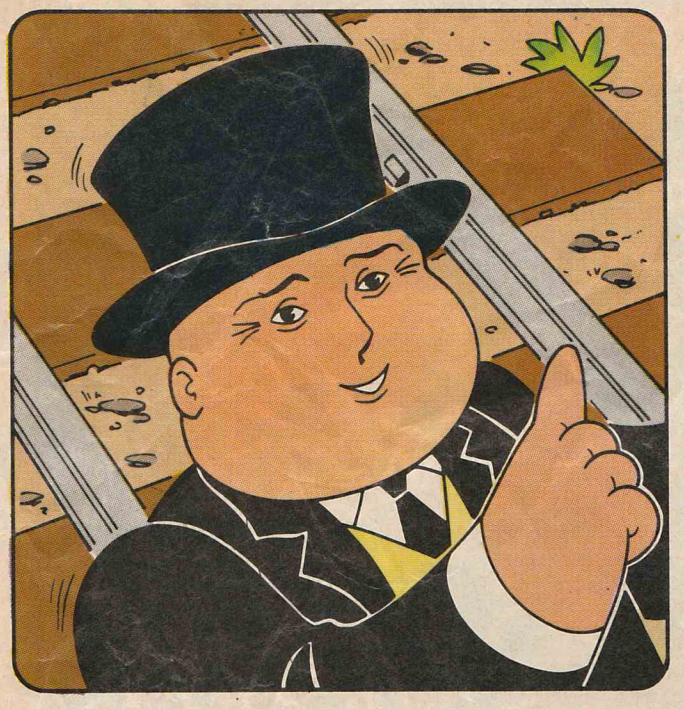


4. "Anyone can look round the bus depot on our open day!" explained Bertie proudly. "They can even sit in my driver's seat and pretend to drive me!"



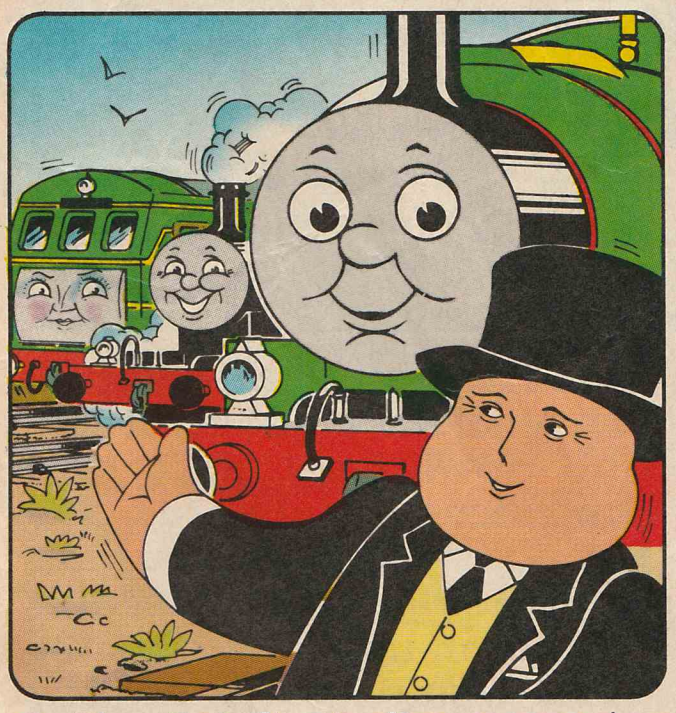
5. "Lucky Bertie," thought Percy. When he reached the Main Station yard, the vicar was there handing the Fat Controller some leaflets. "Give them to your passengers," he said.

6. " 'Help the church roof repair fund!' " the Fat Controller read out from a leaflet. After the vicar left, Percy told the Fat Controller about Bertie's special task.

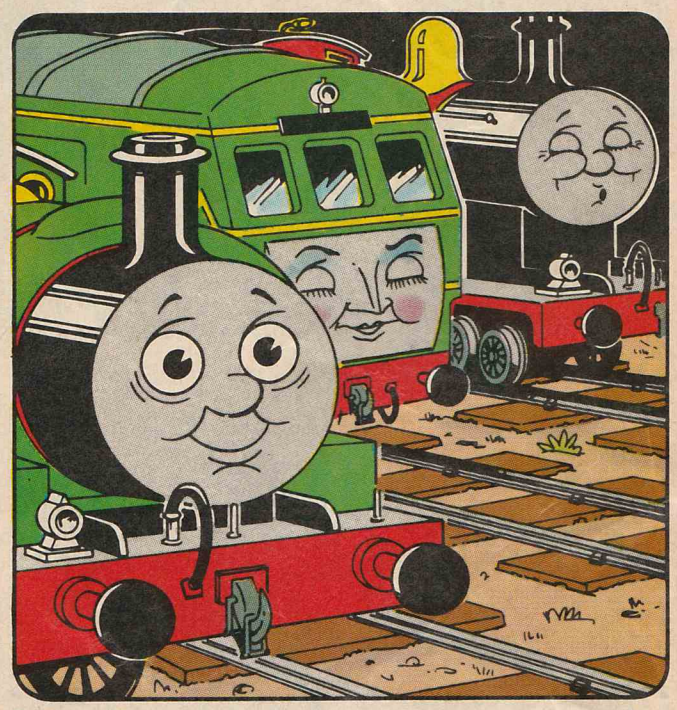


7. The Fat Controller smiled enthusiastically. "I've thought of a way to raise money for the roof!" Percy was pleased but he looked puzzled, too. What could it be?

8. That afternoon in the yard, Percy spotted the stationmaster sticking up posters on the platform. Lots of railway passengers crowded round to read them.



9. The Fat Controller came to talk to Percy. "The posters are announcing an 'Engine Day' on Saturday!" he said. "You are to be on special duty, Percy!"



10. Percy felt very proud although he did not know what an 'engine day' and his special duty could be. On Friday night, he was so excited he hardly slept!

11. Next morning, Percy waited in a siding while the other engines went off to work. What would happen? Suddenly lots of people arrived at the station. The Fat Controller had brought them to see Percy. They took turns to climb into his cab and Percy's driver explained how to drive an engine.

12. Percy felt Really Useful. The visitors enjoyed it all, and ate lots of cake and sandwiches afterwards. The Fat Controller collected lots of money from the visitors for the church roof and the vicar was delighted. Percy was pleased too. "Now everyone is happy," he said. And it's all thanks to Bertie!"

THE END!

In our next issue: Whizzing wheels!

Nestlé

smarties® Zapper Offer!

Zap your friends with a **SMARTIES zapper** - an electronic sound machine (not suitable for children under 36 months). Just collect **'zapper' tokens** from special Smarties tubes or **9 tube tokens plus the starter token** printed in the last issue of **Thomas The Tank Engine & Friends** and send them , along with your name and address and 30 pence towards postage and packing to:
"SMARTIES zapper offer",
Upon Tyne X, NE85 5EP.
Offer closes **31/1/94**

But for those of you not patient enough to collect tokens, we have **20 Smarties zappers** to give away to **20 lucky readers.** Send your name and address on a postcard to:
Thomas Smarties Zapper Giveaway, Marvel Comics Ltd, 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2R 3DX.
The first 20 names chosen at random after **Friday 10th September 1993** will win a Smarties zapper.

NEWSAGENT'S FORM

Do you often find that **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** is sold out at your local newsagents? Well, here's a way of making sure of your copy every fortnight – just fill in the form below and hand it to your newsagent! He will then order it regularly especially for you!

Dear Newsagent,
Please save/send me a copy of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** every fortnight! Thank you!

Name .....

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Signature of parent or guardian .....

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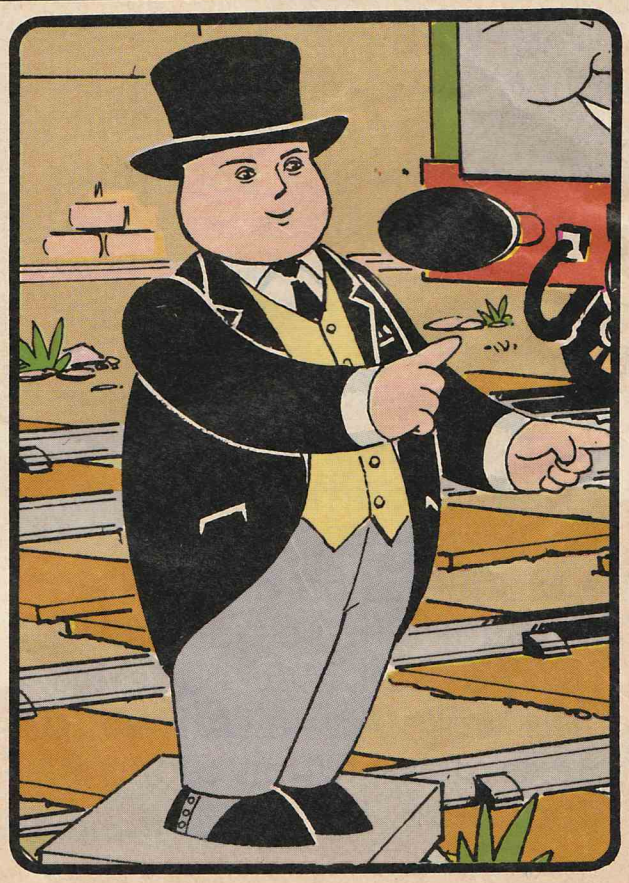


A Read-Aloud Story!

THE FILM SHOW SPECIAL!

There was to be a Film Show at Wellsworth Town Hall for the children who lived in outlying farms and villages along Thomas's branch line. The Fat Controller had arranged a special train to take them.

On the morning of the show, the Fat Controller spoke to Thomas in the Main Station yard.

"I have chosen you to pull the Film Show Special," he said. Thomas was proud. He thought he was a Really Useful Engine to have been picked for the important task.

"Thank you, Sir," he replied. "You can rely on me!"

"The film is all about the animals and birds that live on the Island of Sodor," the Fat Controller told Thomas's driver. "The children will enjoy watching it. So will I!"

Soon Thomas was coupled to his faithful carriage, Annie. Then he rolled slowly into the Main Station and the Fat Controller climbed aboard.

Thomas steamed eagerly on his way. As he arrived at station after station along his branch line, he saw the children waiting with their parents. They waved excitedly.

"Peep! Peep! Hello!" whistled Thomas cheerily. The Fat Controller addressed the parents.

"Your children are the guests of my railway," he said kindly. "I will accompany them to the Film Show Thomas will bring them back afterwards, too!"

Annie was pleased to carry all the children, who were very well behaved. As Thomas arrived at Wellsworth, he could see the Town Hall from the station. There was a fire-engine

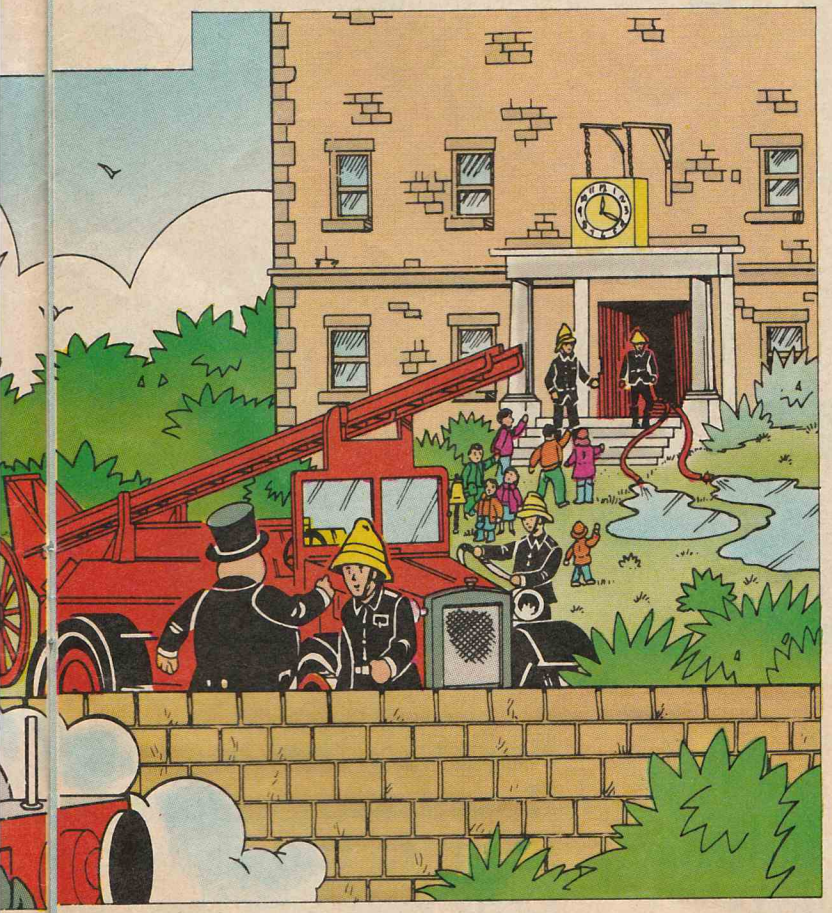
parked outside the Town Hall and firemen were pumping water out of the building.

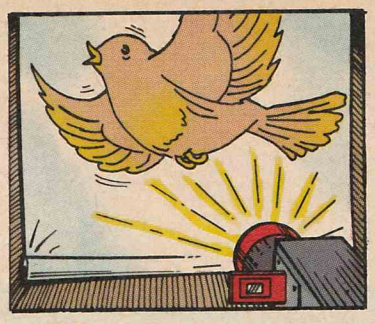
The Fat Controller went to speak to the Chief Fire Officer and the man who was organising the Film Show.

"A water pipe has burst, flooding the Town Hall!" explained the Chief Fire Officer.

"I'm afraid the show must be cancelled!" said the film organiser. The Fat Controller knew the children would be very disappointed. He had an idea.

"The show must go on!" he cried. He spoke to the Stationmaster and then told all the children to return to their seats in Annie. The Fat Controller went to buy lots of big sheets of black paper from a shop near the station. Meanwhile, the film organiser fetched his projector and screen from the Town Hall. He took them aboard Annie and set up the screen at one end of the carriage, connecting it to an electrical socket in the junction box.





Film Show

When the Fat Controller returned, he used the dark paper to black out Annie's windows.

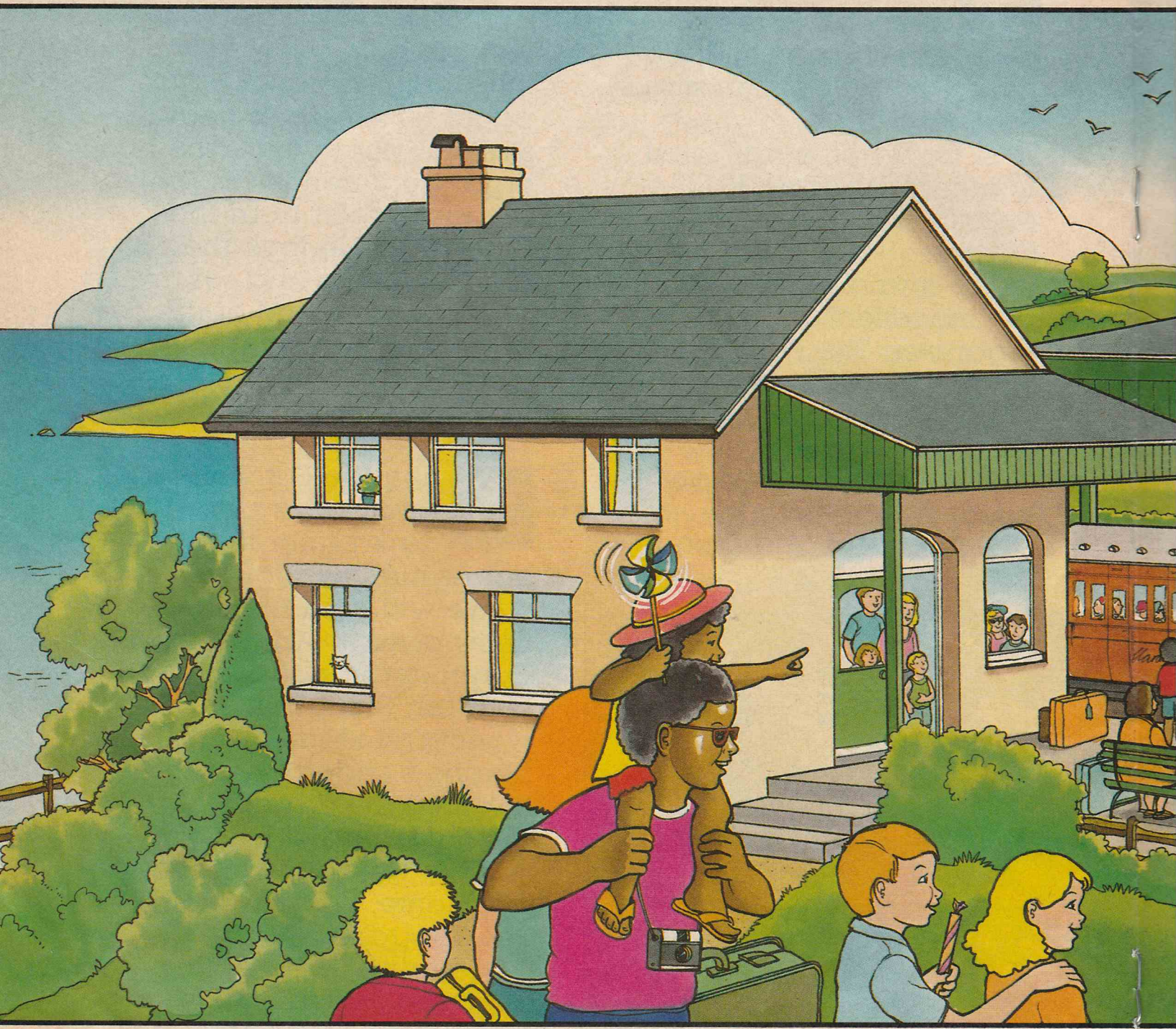
"We will hold the Film Show aboard Annie!" the Fat Controller announced. The children thought it was a wonderful idea. When the film had ended, they all thanked the organiser and the Fat Controller.

"Now we can take everyone home, Thomas!" said the Fat Controller.

"Certainly, Sir!" replied Thomas. "I've enjoyed pulling the Film Show Special!" Annie was pleased too! "I've enjoyed having a Special Film Show!"

THE END!

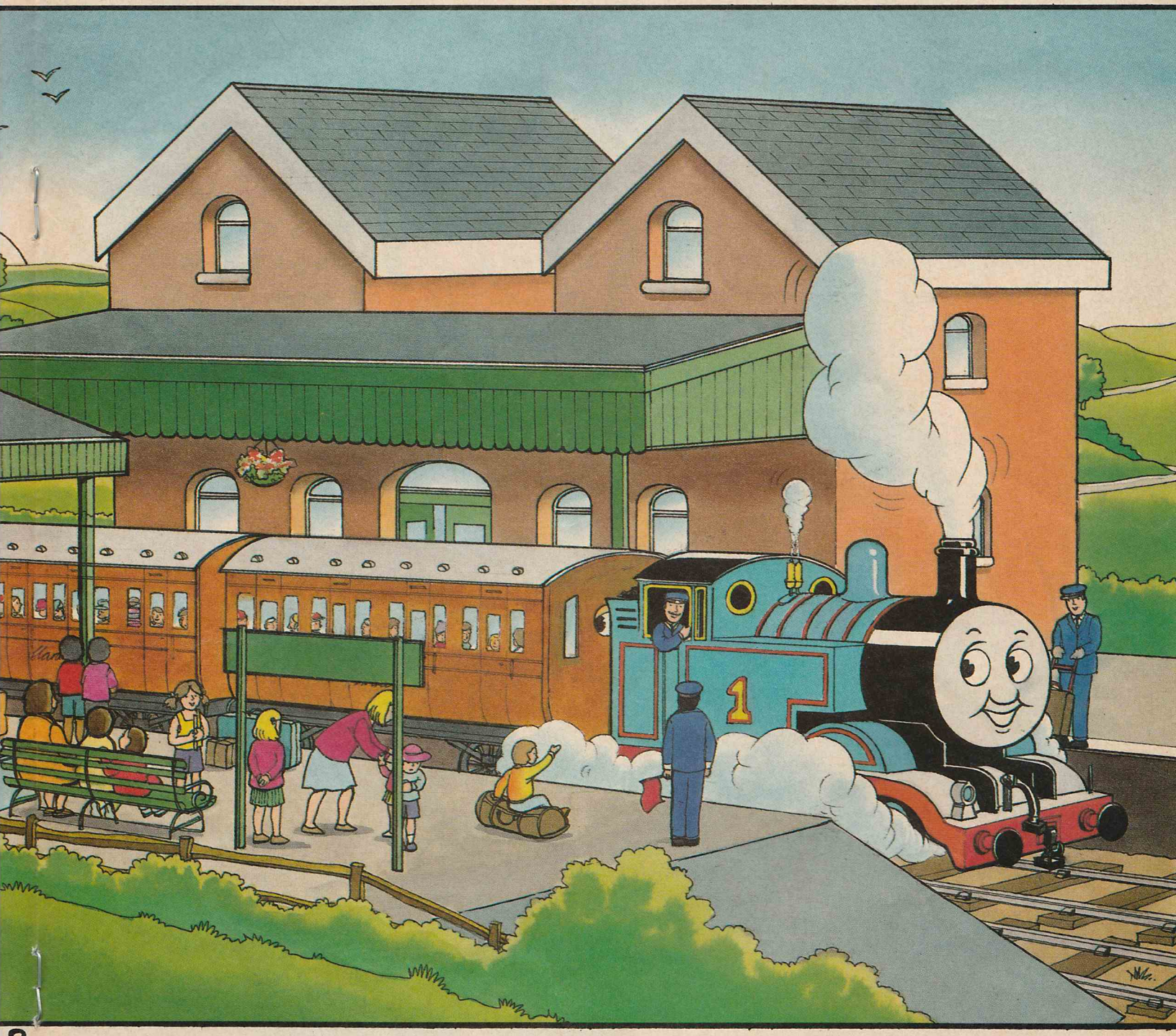
Going hom



Which engine can you see?
What colour is he?
How many carriages is he pulling?
What are his carriages called?

Point to the main stati
How many people are
Point to the station hou
Can you see the cat by

me!

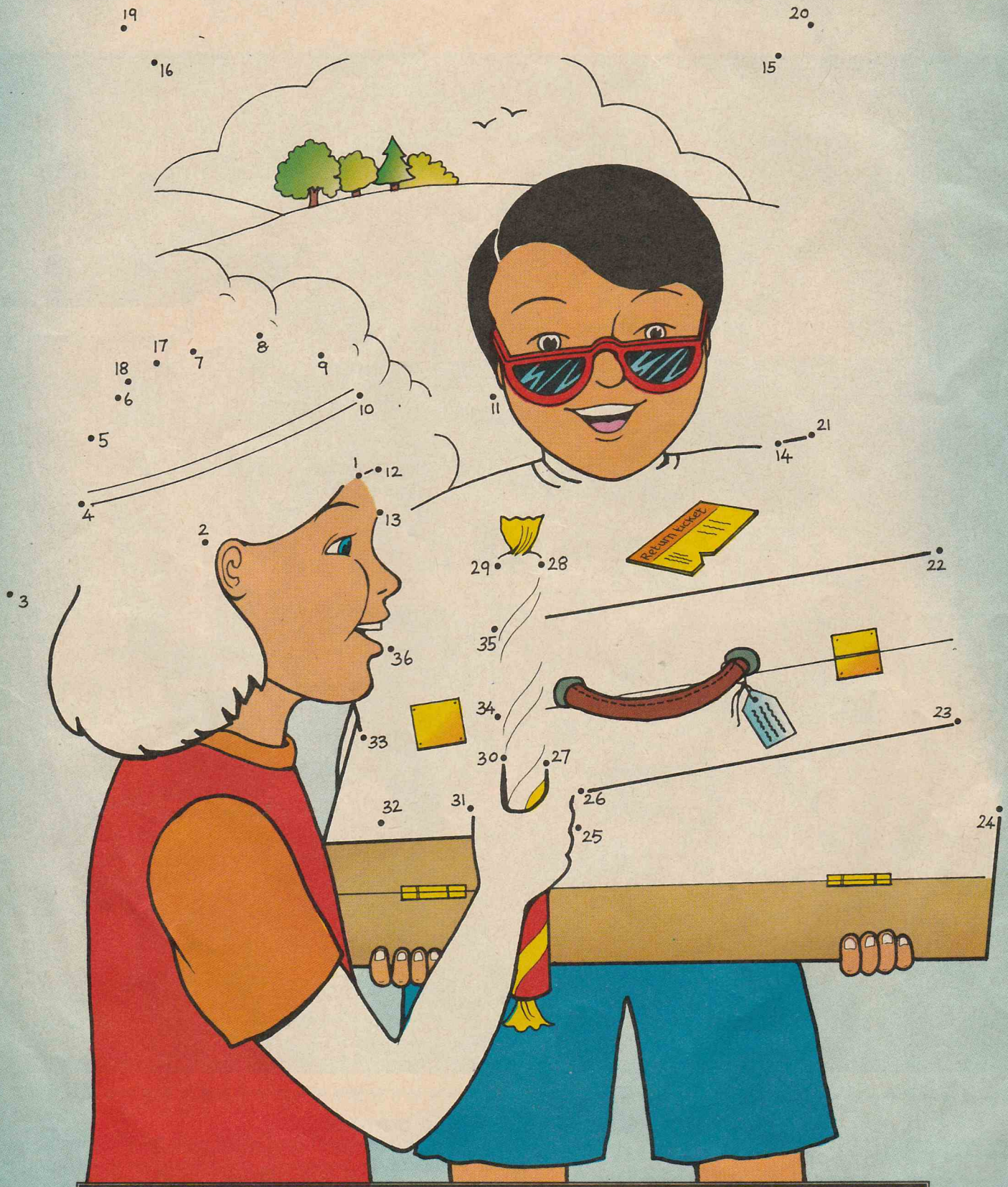


station!
are waiting on the platform?
house!
at by the window?

Note to parents:
This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the comic with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There will be a **'mural page'** in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends**. Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room!

In our next issue: Past the school!

JOIN THE DOTS!



The happy holidaymakers have returned with many gifts for you.
Join the dots to make a picture-then colour it, too!

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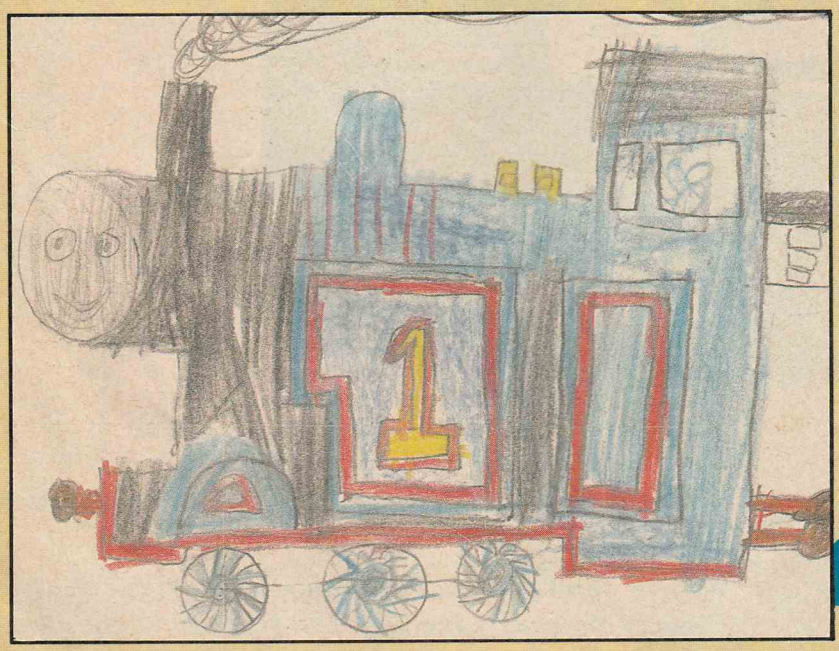
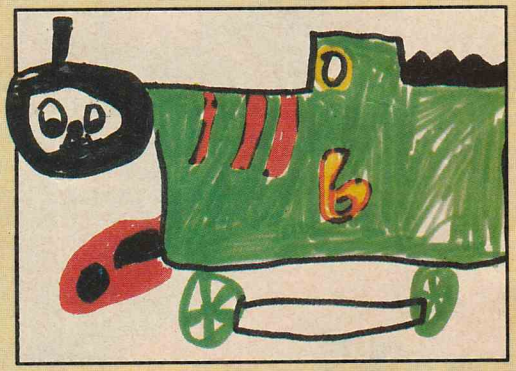
THE FAT CONTROLLER'S PICTURES PAGE!

Look at these colourful drawings of Thomas and his friends!

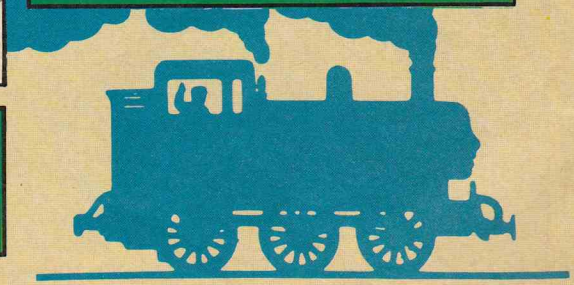
Look at this bright picture of **James**. Our congratulations go out to Robert Kirby from Winchester, Hampshire.



Thomas is one of the busiest engines on the Fat Controller's railway. This splendid crayon drawing of **Thomas** has been sent in by Paul Hedley, aged 5.

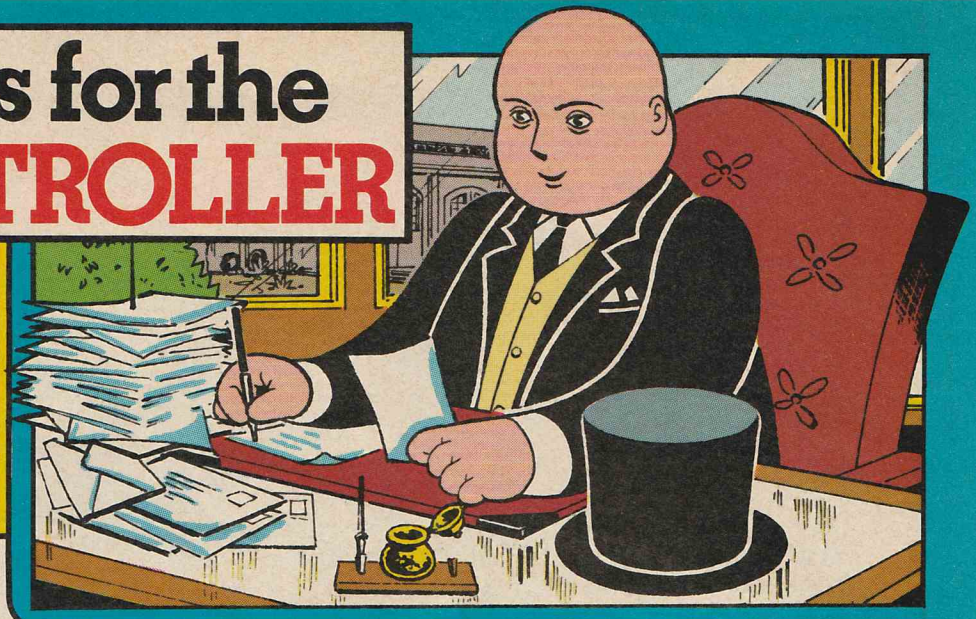


Here comes **Percy the Saddle Tank** Engine. Karen McGarry, aged 7, has painted this lively little picture. Congratulations!



Thank you all for sending in your pictures! We are sorry that we can only print a few. If you would like to draw a picture and have a chance of seeing it printed in a future issue, please send it to: *The Fat Controller's Pictures Page, Marvel Comics, 13-15 Arundel St, London WC2 3DX.*

Your letters for the FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas or his friends? If so, then write to me at the address shown below! I would be so very pleased to hear from you!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller,
We went to the Severn Valley railway and our train was pulled by a green steam engine called the' Great Maravess'. We saw some Great Western coaches and some trucks!

Love from **Pamela Corns**, aged 8.

It does sound as though you had a lovely day out at the Severn Valley Railway. It is one of the very finest British railways. They have very fine steam engines there, too!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The sender of any letter that is printed as our will win some splendid **Thomas Pre-school** toys courtesy of *ERTL (UK) Ltd.*

PROUD ENGINES!

Dear Fat Controller,
Why does James sometimes play tricks on the other engines?

Love from **Kelly**, aged 2.

***James** is a very proud engine and he always hopes that his engine friends will also think highly of him. However, if any of James's friends joke about him, he quite often decides to get his own back by teasing or tricking them!*

FAVOURITE STORIES!

Dear Fat Controller,
I liked the story called **The Wedding Engine**, when Thomas was asked to collect the wedding guests. I think he really must have enjoyed himself!

Love from **Dave**, aged 4.

Yes! I remember how Thomas thought that carrying the bride was the most important task of all. I'm sure the newly-married couple equally enjoyed travelling in Thomas's faithful carriage, Annie!

BIRTHDAY'S!

Special greetings go out to....

Steven Hudson, Sam Taylor, Robert Anfrew Lee, Christopher Mark Walker, Steven Hadley, Paul Lyth, Simon Christopher Brown and Harry Green.

If you would like a birthday mention printed in one of our future issues, please send details on a post-card at least **nine weeks** in advance!

Yours
Sir Topham Hatt
The Fat Controller!

Send your letters to:

The Fat Controller
The Island of Sodor
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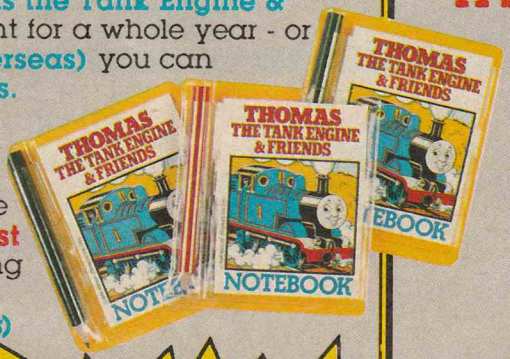
Additionally, if you subscribe for a **whole year (UK subscribers only)** you will receive a **FREE Thomas diecast model** plus a charming **notebook** and **pencil** ***(see opposite pictures)*** and personalised **Fat Controller's Card** enabling you to enter offers and competitions frequently open to **Fat Controller's Card** holders. Simply fill out the appropriate form below!



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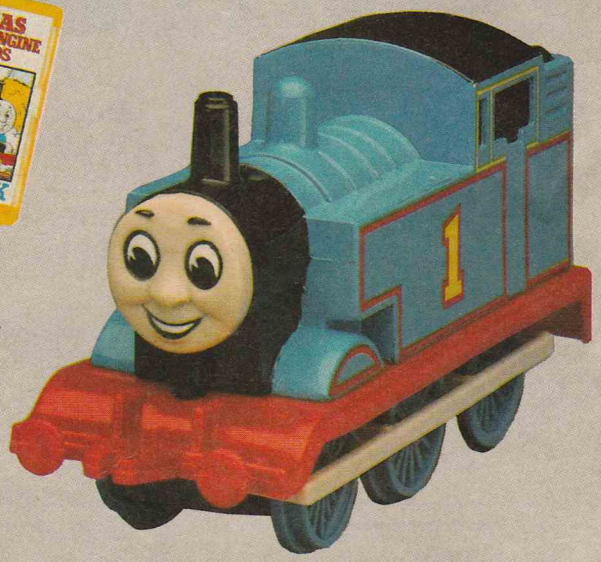
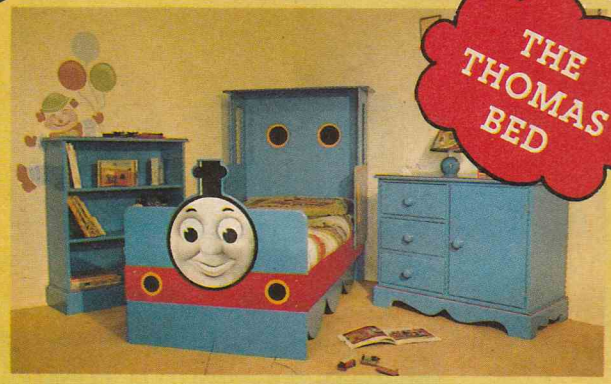
A SPLENDID GIFT FOR YOU!



THOMAS BED ADVERT ▼



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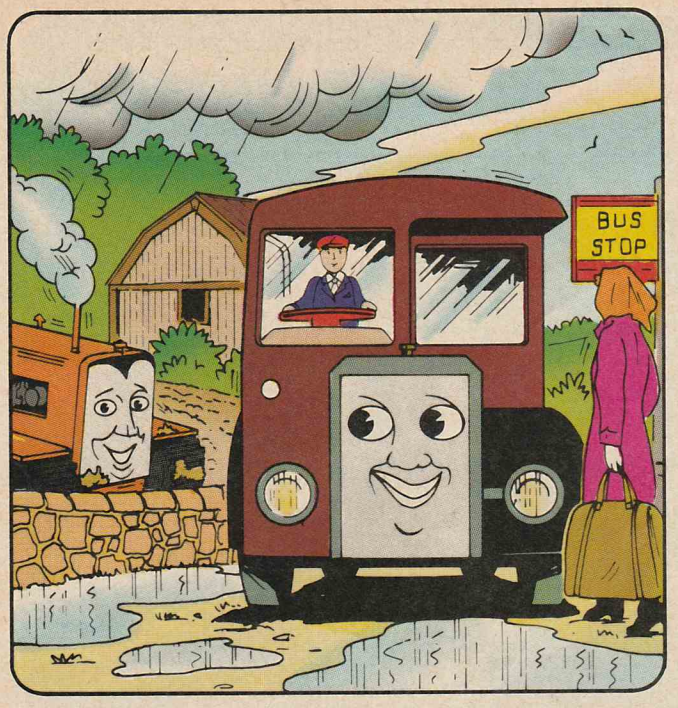
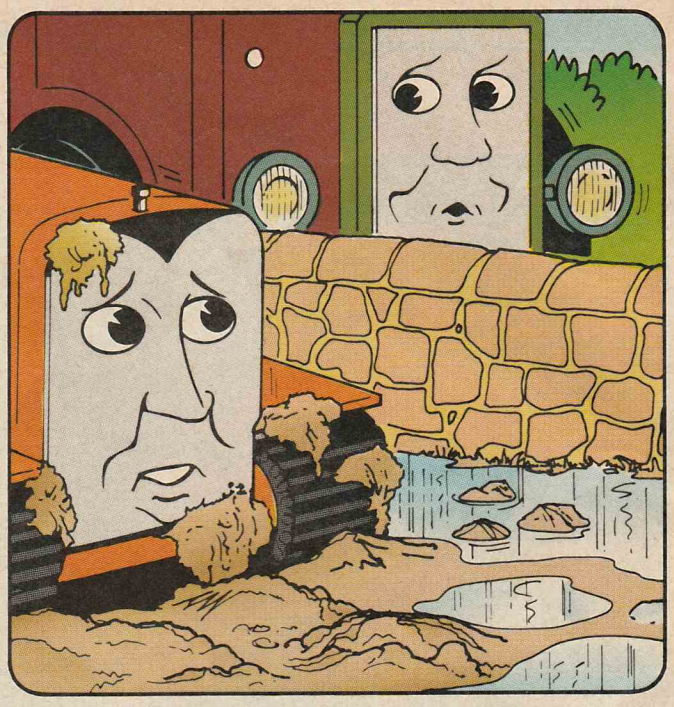
PULLING PASSENGERS!

1. It had been raining hard on the Island of Sodor. Water lay on the fields and there were big puddles on the track along Thomas's branch line.

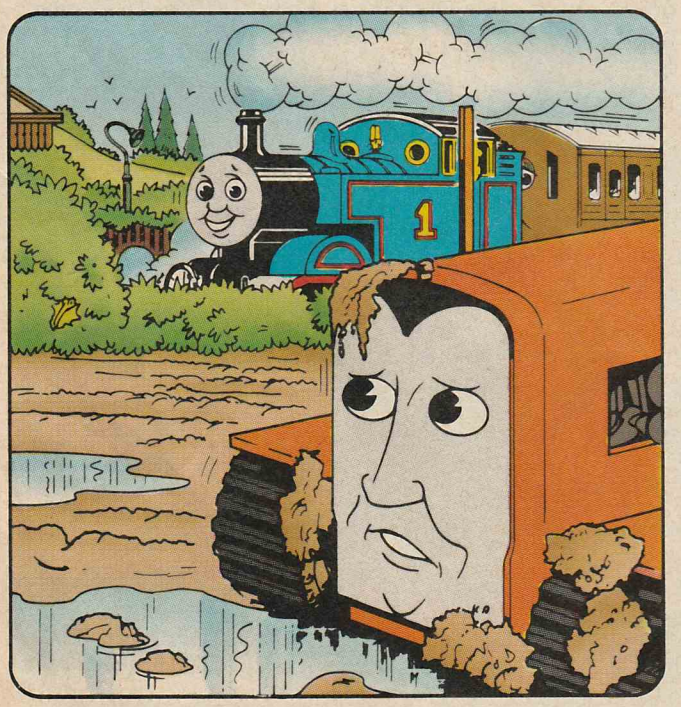
2. It was just as wet on the roads. Bertie the Bus splished and splashed through the lanes as he carried passengers to the station to meet Thomas.



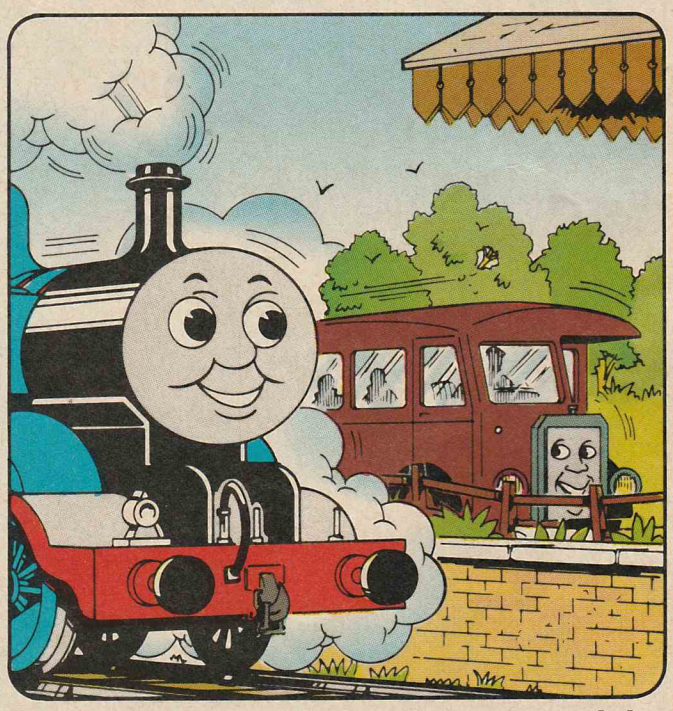
3. On his journey, Bertie saw Terence the Tractor in a field. "Hello, Terence!" called Bertie as he pulled into a bus stop to pick up some more passengers.



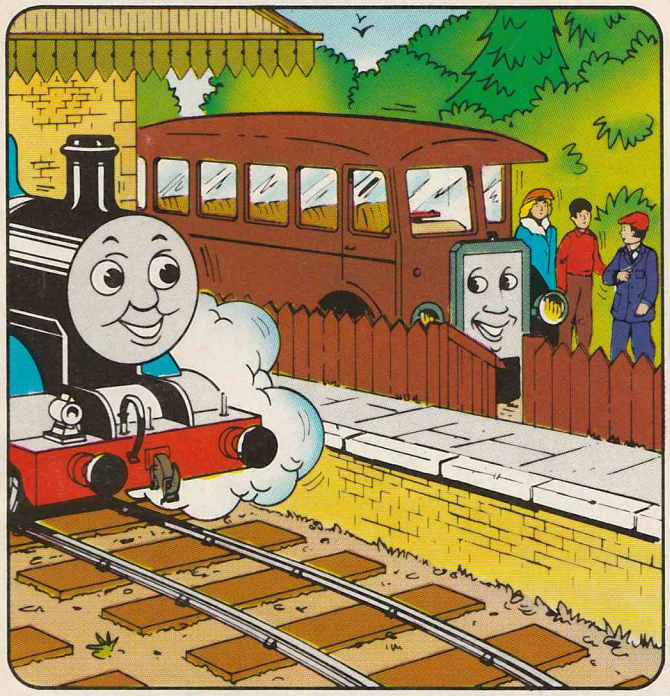
4. "That field looks very muddy!" he said. "It's lucky you have your caterpillar treads to grip the ground so well! My wheels would get stuck!"



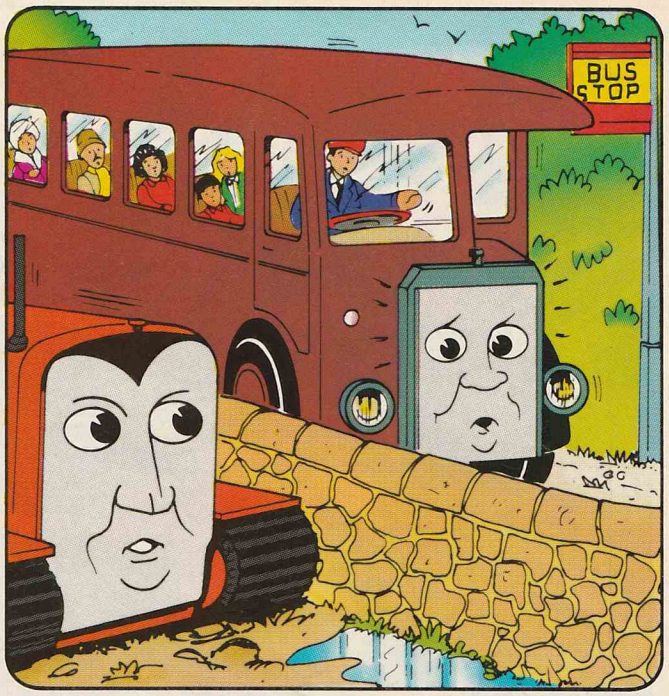
5. "I can't carry passengers like you can," said Terence sadly. He saw Thomas puffing past the field towards the station. "I can't pull carriages either" he said.



6. Terence wished he could pull people instead of ploughs just once. When Bertie delivered his passengers to the station, he told Thomas about Terence.

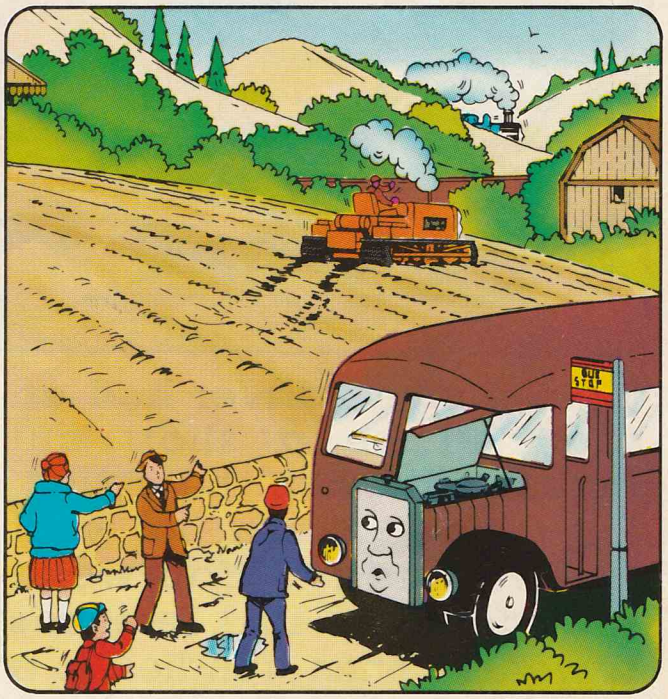


7. "Terence wants to take passengers!" said Bertie. "Gah! He's much too slow with those caterpillar treads!" huffed Thomas. "People would complain!"

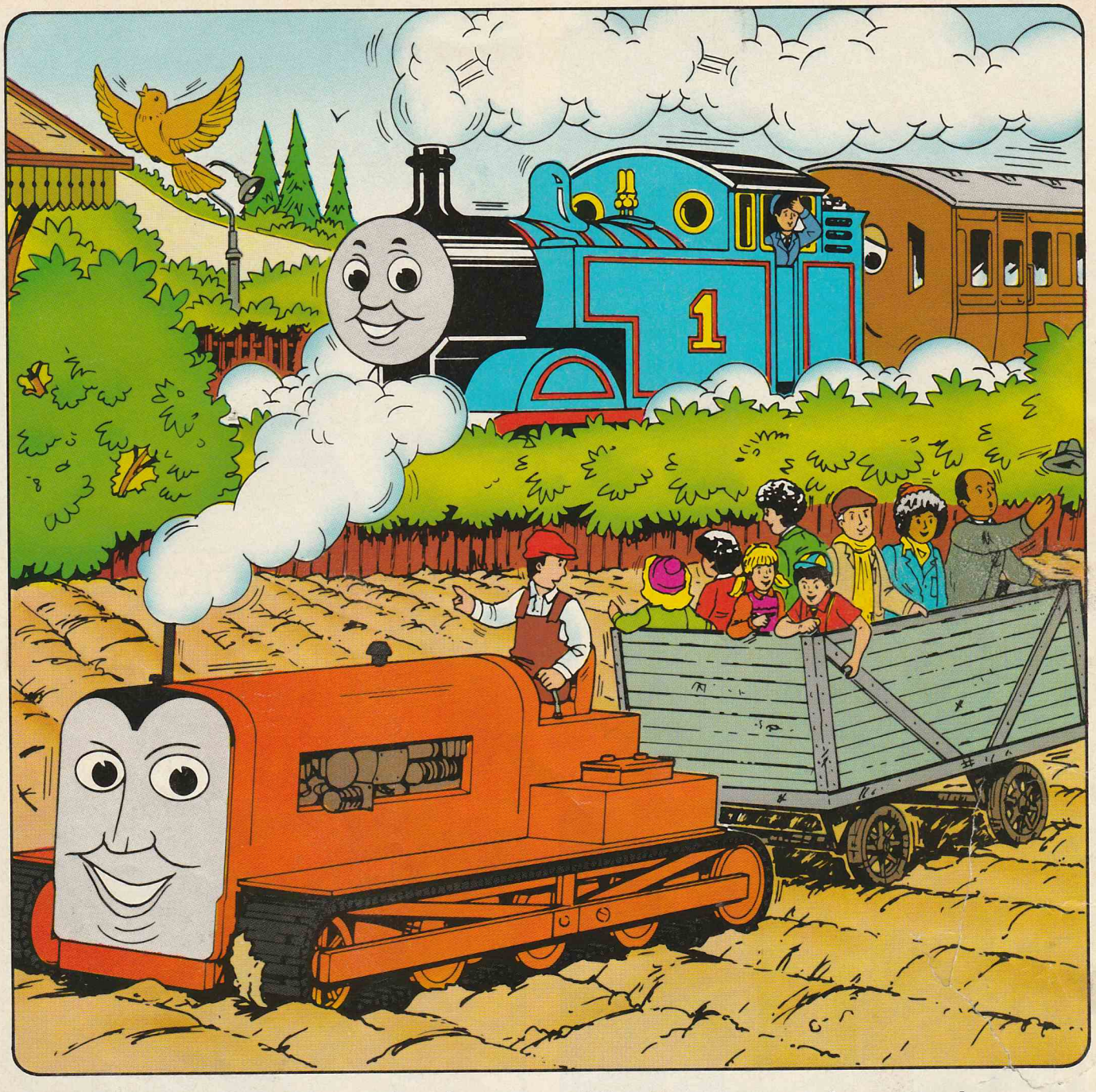


8. Next morning while Bertie stopped to pick up some passengers, he called "Hello" to Terence again. When he tried to start again, he couldn't. Bertie was stuck.

9. "Help! I can't move!" he cried. Bertie's driver spoke to the passengers. "I'm afraid Bertie has broken down. He can't take you to the station today!"



10. The people could hear Thomas steaming towards the station to collect them. "We will miss our train if we have to walk to the station," they cried.



11. Terence's driver had an idea. "Take a short cut across this field," he called. But the people did not want to get muddy. "You won't have to walk," said Terence's driver. Terence trundled to a nearby shed and came back pulling a trailer. Quickly the people climbed into the trailer and Terence set off towards the station.

12. Terence chugged over the muddy fields as fast as he could. He arrived at the station just as Thomas pulled into the platform. The people stepped down from the trailer and thanked Terence's driver. How Thomas stared in surprise. "I can pull passengers with my caterpillar treads after all," said Terence happily.

THE END!

In our next issue: Lost property!